Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Cancel Claims 1-5

Claim 6 (previously cancelled)

Cancel Claim 7

8. (original) A method of selectively connecting one of plurality of input receiving wires and one of a plurality of output transmitting wires to one of a plurality of selectable connectors in a signal routing circuit, the method comprising:

retrieving data representing a number of non-selectable input connectors and non-selectable output connectors and selectable input/output connectors from the circuit;

receiving data through an interface from a user representing a number of desired input connectors each to be connected to an input receiving wire;

comparing said number of desired input connectors to the sum of said non-selectable input connectors and a plurality of selectable input/output connectors;

repeating said receiving and comparing until the sum of said non-selectable input connectors and the plurality of selectable input/output connectors equals or exceeds the number of desired input connectors;

calculating the number of available output connectors by adding the number of non-selectable input connectors, non-selectable output connectors, and selectable input/output connectors together and subtracting the number of desired input connectors therefrom;

displaying the number of available output connectors and desired input connectors using a display mechanism;

repeatedly connecting a selectable input/output connector to an input receiving wire until the sum of said non-selectable input connectors and the selectable input/output connectors connected to an input receiving wire equals the number of said desired input connectors;

repeatedly connecting all selectable input/output connector not so connected to an input receiving wire to an output transmitting wire.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said circuit received and transmits video signals.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said circuit receives and transmits audio signals.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said circuit received and transmits data signals.

12 (Previously cancelled)

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said circuit has output pins that may be connected to more than one connector.

Cancel Claim 14

15. (previously cancelled)

Add Claims 16-21

--16. Apparatus for routing signals, comprising

a cross point matrix for routing signals having a plurality of inputs and at least one first output and at least one other output, the cross-point matrix providing a unidirectional routing path between at least one input to at least one output;

a plurality of non-switchable input-only ports each receiving a respective input signal for transmission to a corresponding one of a first subset of cross point matrix inputs;

at least one non-switchable output only port for receiving an output signal from the first cross point matrix output;

at least one bidirectional port capable receiving an input signal or transmitting an output signal; and

at least one switching means switching the at least one bidirectional port between a respective one of a second sub-set of cross point matrix inputs and the at least one other cross point matrix output.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the cross-point matrix has multiple other outputs; and further comprising:

a plurality of bidirectional ports, each capable receiving an input signal or transmitting an output signal; and

a plurality of switching means, each switching a respective one of said plurality of bidirectional ports between a respective one of a second sub-set of cross point matrix inputs and a respective one of the plurality of other cross point matrix outputs.

18. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said cross-point matrix, said input-only ports, said at least one output-only port, said at least one bi-directional port and said at least one switching means are housed in a single frame.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said cross-point matrix routes video signals.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said cross-point matrix routes audio signals.

21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said cross-point matrix routes video and audio signals.--